

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 AID-20 IO-14 (ISO) W

----- 043644

R 171225Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1806

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0333

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, SF

SUBJ: DEBATE CONTINUES OVER CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP'S CALL
TO SOUTH AFRICANS TO RESIST MILITARY SERVICE

REF: DURBAN 315; CAPE TOWN 526 AND A-57

1. S U M M A R Y:

DESPITE STRONGLY IMPLIED CRITICISM FROM SOME FELLOW CATHOLIC
ARCHBISHOPS, DURBAN ARCHBISHOP DENIS HURLEY HAS CONTINUED TO
CALL UPON YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS TO RESIST MILITARY SERVICE IN
DEFENSE OF APARTHEID. SUPPORT FOR HURLEY HAS BEEN MEAGER,
WITH MOST NATAL CLERICS PREFERRING TO IGNORE BROADER QUESTION
OF MORALITY OF BORDER CONFLICT AND LIMIT THEIR PUBLIC
COMMENTS TO SPECIFICS OF PROPOSED DEFENSE AMENDMENT BILL.
E N D S U M M A R Y.

2. CONTROVERSY CONTINUES TO SURROUND CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP DENIS
HURLEY'S APPEAL TO YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS NOT TO PARTICIPATE
IN AN UNJUST WAR BY FIGHTING ON SOUTH AFRICA'S NORTHERN
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BORDERS. DESPITE STRONGLY IMPLIED CRITICISM FROM WITHIN

CATHOLIC HIERARCHY, HURLEY HAS NOT DESISTED IN HIS OUTSPOKEN EFFORTS TO LINK SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS TO THE EMERGING CONFLICT ON ITS NORTHERN BORDERS. ON THE CONTRARY, HURLEY HAS CONTINUED HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND CALLED UPON SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCHES TO ADOPT CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION TO MILITARY SERVICE AS A CHURCH PRINCIPLE.

3. WHILE REFUSING DIRECTLY CRITICIZE HURLEY, CATHOLIC ARCH-BISHOPS OF BLOEMFONTEIN AND PRETORIA HAVE MADE STATEMENTS STRONGLY AT VARIANCE WITH HIS. BOTH EMPHASIZED CATHOLIC DOCTRINE ACCEPTS RIGHT OF STATE TO CALL CITIZENS TO ITS DEFENSE; HISTORICALLY CATHOLICS HAVE WILLINGLY ACCEPTED SUCH CALLS.

4. STRONG SUPPORT FOR HURLEY HAS COME FROM DR. EZRS NAUDE, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE. AT SEPT 15 ECUMENICAL MEETING IN PIETERMARITZBURG, NAUDE ARGUED SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY WAS "FUNDAMENTALLY UNJUST" AND CHRISTIANS MUST OBEY CHRIST'S INJUNCTION TO RESTRICT VIOLENCE AND SUFFERING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. LAY OPINION IN NATAL APPEARS DIVIDED, WITH ONLY SMALL GROUP SUPPORTING HURLEY AND MOST REJECTING HIS ARGUMENTS.

5. GREAT MAJORITY OF NATAL CLERICS HAVE REFUSED JOIN ARGUMENT OVER HURLEY'S STATEMENTS, PREFERRING INSTEAD LIMIT THEIR PARTICIPATION IN CURRENT DEBATE TO SPECIFIC POINTS IN DEFENSE AMENDMENT ACT (REFAIR).

6. COMMENT: HURLEY'S STATEMENTS ARE ATTEMPT TO ALTER FUNDAMENTALLY CHARACTER OF DEBATE OVER DEFENSE AMENDMENT ACT AND INSTIGATE SERIOUS EXAMINATION OF LINKAGE BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNAL POLICIES AND EXTERNAL SECURITY THREATS. HURLEY WILL PROBABLY CONSIDER HIS EFFORT A SUCCESS IF HE CAN PROVOKE MEANINGFUL DEBATE ON RELATIONSHIP OF APARTHEID TO NASCENT BORDER CONFLICT. TO DATE, HOWEVER, NATAL RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY HAS RESISTED BEING DRAWN INTO FUNDAMENTAL DEBATE. PROGNOSIS IS THAT BASIC CONSERVATISM OF CLERICAL COMMUNITY WILL CONTINUE TO PREDOMINATE AND ISSUE HURLEY IS TRYING TO RAISE WILL BE IGNORED UNTIL BORDER CONFLICT HAS ESCALATED TO SERIOUS PROPORTIONS. HURLEY LEAVING SPET 19 FOR FIVE WEEK

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TRIP TO LONDON AND ROME; THIS MAY HELP COOL DEBATE.
HOLMES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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